

Message Text

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 OCPE-00 SY-05 FBOE-00

A-01 /023 W

-----021790 161445Z /46

R 161210Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 140

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRAZZAVILLE 042

DEPT FOR OC/PE, A/SY/FO, A/FBO, AF/C:JUNIOR

ACCRA FOR COMSPEC AND RCO

KINSHASA FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFAC ABLD ASEC AFOP

SUBJECT: CCC FOR BRAZZAVILLE

REF: A) STATE 287185 (1977), B) STATE 002562 (1978/NOTAL),
C) STATE 7749 D) BRAZZA 038 (1977), E) BRAZZA 115 (1977)

1. DEPT CORRECT IN ASSUMPTION PARA ONE REFTEL A THAT WORK STOPPAGE
REFERS TO "DEMO" PROJECT. TECH AND SEABEE TEAM COMPLETED DESTRUCTIVE
SURVEY OF PROPOSED CCC AREA AND EXECUTIVE OFFICE AREA MID-DECEMBER
AND DEPARTED.

2. PARA TWO REFTEL A: DEMO SEABEES HAVE PERFORMED NO WORK IN
RENOVATION OF TEMPORARY COMCENTER. FOR PRESENT, POST HAS UNCLASS
FRENCH TELEX MACHINE LINK THROUGH LOCAL PTT WITH EMBASSY PARIS,
WHICH RELAYS UNCLASS TO US, AND OUR UNCLASS TRAFFIC TO INDICATED
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ADDRESSES. DEMO TEAM LEFT SECURE AREA FOR INSTALLATION OF HW-28,
ALTHOUGH ALL ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS HAVE BEEN GUTTED AND AREA
LOOKS AS THOUGH BOMB EXPLODED INSIDE AS RESULT OF DESTRUCTIVE
SURVEY. ADDITIONAL SEABEE ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED SOONEST IF WE
ARE TO SET UP EVEN TEMPORARY COMCENTER WITH CLASSIFIED CAPABILITY.

3. PRIOR TO ARRIVAL DAVE FERGUSON, TDY CRO FROM MONROVIA, ALL POST

OUTGOING TRAFFIC WAS CARRIED BY NON-PRO COURIER TO KINSHASA FOR SENDING, AND KINSHASA MAINTAINED MCN AND MRN LOGS. INCOMING CLASSIFIED WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE PASSED TO US VIA KINSHASA, AND ON OUTGOING CLASSIFIED WE NOW ASSIGN MCN AND MRN AND POUCH TO KINSHASA FOR TRANSMISSION.

4. POST'S COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS, NOW THAT WE HAVE TDY CRO FOR UNCLAS TRAFFIC, ARE WITH TRANSMISSION OF SENSITIVE MATERIALS, WHICH INCLUDES THE BULK OF POL TRAFFIC. AS THIS TRAFFIC IS ALL RELAYED VIA KINSHASA AND AS YET NO REGULAR COURIER SCHEDULE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS DELAYS BOTH IN RECEIPT AND TRANSMISSION OF CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC. SOME RECENT EXAMPLES: WE RECEIVED ON JAN. 9 A CABLE SENT PRIORITY FROM DEPARTMENT ON JAN. 3 AND A PRIORITY MESSAGE DRAFTED HERE ON JAN. 2 WAS ONLY TRANSMITTED JAN. 9. WE ARE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A REGULAR THRICE WEEKLY NON-PRO COURIER RUN BETWEEN BRAZZAVILLE AND KINSHASA, BUT AS POST HAS ONLY THREE PERSONNEL WITH DIP PASSPORTS ABLE TO CARRY POUCH THIS OBVIOUSLY DEPLETES OUR STAFF. EVEN THIS SCHEDULE WILL MEAN DELAY IN TRANSMISSION OF ALL CLASSIFIED MESSAGES OTHER THAN THOSE WRITTEN HERE OR RECEIVED IN KINSHASA ON DAY OF COURIER RUN.

5. POST WANTS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO WASHINGTON'S DESIRE FOR TIMELY REPORTING; BUT WITH AN INFERIOR CUMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY, THIS IS PROVING DIFFICULT. WE'RE DRAFTING OUR MESSAGES IN REGULAR FLOW, BUT OURS AREN'T GETTING TO YOU AS QUICKLY AS THEY SHOULD, NOR YOURS TO US, FOR PURELY TECHNICAL REASONS. WE NEED CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL

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CAPABILTIY SOONEST TO ENABLE US TO PERFORM ON OF KEY FUNCTIONS FOR WHICH WE ARE HERE AND HOPE THIS SITUATION GIVES US SOME PRIORITY OVER OTHER POSTS SEEKING HELP, WHICH ALREADY HAVE AT LEAST LIMITED CAPACITY.

6. POST EVEN HAS BEEN HAVING DIFFICULTIES GETTING OUTSIDE TELEX LINE TO PARIS. HAVE COORDINATED WITH PARIS WIREROOM TO CALL US AT 0800Z, 1200Z, AND 1600Z SO WE MAY SEND AND RECEIVE UNCLASS TRAFFIC. OUR PRESENT HOURS OF TELEX OPERATION ARE 0800 TO 1300, 1500 TO 1800 LOCAL MONDAY THRU FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 0800 TO 1200 LOCAL. PRO COURIER SERVICE BEGAN WITHOUT A HITCH JAN 9. POST HAS WEEKLY UNCLASS POUCH TO PARIS AND OTHER CLASS AND UNCLASS MATERIALS ARE SENT VIA KINSHASA TO OTHER ADDRESSES.

7. PARA ONE REFTEL B IS A NEW ITEM FOR US AS WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A COPY OF STATE 287358. WAS THAT A CLASSIFIED TRANSMISSION? IF IT WAS, IT GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATES OUR PROBLEM AND THE CATCH-22 SITUATION IN WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES: NAMELY, THAT WE DO NOT RECEIVE CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC QUICKLY ENOUGH TO ENABLE US TO RESPOND IN A TIMELY MANNER TO REQUESTS THAT WOULD HELP US TO EXPEDITE COMPLETION OF A CCC BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE A CCC AND, THEREFORE, DO NOT RECEIVE AND CANNOT RESPOND IN A TIMELY FASHION.

IT IS THE PROVERBIAL VICIOUS CIRCLE AND WE REQUEST THE
DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERED AND RAPID ASSISTANCE TO INSTALL A CCC
AND BREAK US OUT.
KATZEN

NOTE BY OC/T: STATE 287358 RETRANSMITTED, 1/16/78

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NNN

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